

MAYOR'S QUARTERLY UPDATE APRIL – JUNE 2021

COVID-19 UPDATE

As I write this report to you, I'm pleased to say for the first time in over a year our lives are becoming more "normal" as COVID-19 releases its hold on us. A big thanks to our township employees for continuing to provide excellent service to our residents during this difficult time. We are especially grateful for our police officers and volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel that courageously battled the pandemic from the frontlines.

Building defenses against COVID-19 in our community has taken a team effort. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is important because it adds one more layer of protection for you, your family, your friends, and your coworkers. Nearly 5 million residents of New Jersey have been fully vaccinated, which represents about 56 percent of all residents. Vaccines are now open for all residents 12 years of age and older and most vaccination sites now accept walk-ins and patients are no longer required to pre-register or make appointments.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES:

- Vaccine Call Center: 1-855-568-0545
- [COVID-19 Vaccine \(nj.gov\)](https://www.nj.gov/health/covid19/vaccine/)
- [Where, how, and when can I get vaccinated? | FAQ \(nj.gov\)](https://www.nj.gov/health/covid19/vaccine/faq/)
- [Why Get Vaccinated? To Protect Yourself, Your Coworkers, Your Patients, Your Family \(bergen.nj.us\)](https://www.bergen.nj.us/health/covid19/vaccine/)

Statewide, new cases of COVID-19 are way down. Since cases began to rapidly decline, Governor Murphy lifted most of the statewide mask mandates, gathering limits, and social distancing requirements. With New Jersey well on its way to recovery, he also signed an executive order ending the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Face masks are no longer required in most outdoor and indoor settings, however based on Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, unvaccinated individuals should continue to wear a face covering in public spaces – especially indoors – to protect themselves and others. Face coverings are still required for all individuals on public transportation, health care facilities, including nursing homes and office-based health care settings, child care centers, homeless shelters, and correctional facilities, which remain subject to existing requirements and/or recommendations.

Public schools must provide full-time in-person instruction and it is no longer a mandate to wear face masks; however school districts can institute a must wear policy if they chose to do so. In addition, businesses may continue to require face coverings for employees, customers, and guests. Businesses are also not permitted to restrict the use of face masks by their staff, customers, or visitors. Masks are still required in state offices such as the Motor Vehicle Commission.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19:

- Visit: www.saddlebrooknj.us
- Visit: www.covid.nj.gov
- Dial: 2-1-1
- Dial Toll-Free Call Center: 1-800-222-1222

Our township offices, library, and senior center are fully open to the public. Now that most COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, the township will once again be holding large events and activities. The health, safety, and welfare of all our residents remains our highest priority.

OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

- COVID-19 Testing: [COVID-19-testing - Bergen New Bridge Medical Center \(newbridgehealth.org\)](http://newbridgehealth.org)
- Center for Disease Control: [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/)
- Mental Health Cares: 1-866-202-HELP
- COVID-19 Rental Assistance: www.BergenCountyCARES.org.
- American Rescue Plan Child Tax Credit: www.childtaxcredit.gov

BUDGET

Budget Hearing and Adoption

There was a budget hearing during the council meeting on Thursday, June 3, 2021. Township auditor Steve Wielkots called into the in-person meeting and was available for questions concerning the budget and township finances. The budget was adopted at the regular council meeting on Thursday, July 1, 2021.

General Information and Highlights

Like most communities, Saddle Brook suffered a tremendous loss of revenue as a result of the pandemic. The township will receive federal funding to help offset some of this loss. We delayed adopting the budget until confirmation and guidance was received from state and federal officials. As a result of this delay, we were required to send out third quarter estimated tax bills (August 2021). It must be noted that the estimated bills are an approximation and the increase for this quarter does not reflect the total taxes for 2021-2022. Per state law, the third quarter tax is due August 1, 2021 with a grace period of 10 days. If payment is not received by August 10th, interest reverts back to August 1, 2021.

Saddle Brook's municipal budget will have an increase of \$131 for an average assessment of \$366,037. The township council and I feel that this budget represents what is needed to maintain services and continue doing what's best for the community. I understand any tax increase can be a burden to our residents. We have carefully reviewed our budget and other than mandated increases beyond our control, discretionary spending is down from 2020. With that we are still continuing our road resurfacing program for 2021 as well as upgrading our sewer and water infrastructure and hiring police officers to replace retiring officers insuring public safety. We continue to aggressively pursue state and federal grants, which in turn, saves our taxpayers. As previously stated, we intend to use federal monies allocated to reduce our revenue shortfall, thus reducing the tax increase.

As you're aware, most township events were cancelled or curtailed last year. I'm happy to report that with COVID-19 restrictions being lifted, our Senior Center is now open, National Night Out will be held on August 3rd at 55 Mayhill Street and our annual Township Picnic will be held on August 28th at Saddle River County Park, Otto Pehle Section. Please check our website for event details - www.saddlebrooknj.us.

Bond Ordinances

Ordinance #1697-21 – Passed on 2nd Reading May 6, 2021

This ordinance authorizes the TOWNSHIP'S 2021 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, to appropriate the sum of \$1,700,000 to pay the cost thereof, etc.

Ordinance 1698-21 – Passed on 2nd Reading May 6, 2021

This ordinance authorizes the IMPROVEMENT OF MAYHILL STREET (PHASE II.) in, by and for the Township of Saddle Brook to appropriate the sum of \$480,000 to pay the cost thereof, etc.

Tax Credit

Starting July 15, 2021, eligible families will receive a total of \$3000 per child for children over six years of age and \$3600 per child for children under six years of age. This relief is courtesy of the American Rescue Plan. Eligible families who have filed their tax returns will automatically begin receiving payments. If you don't file tax returns, sign up for payments via the IRS portal. You can take full advantage of the credit only if your modified adjusted gross income is under \$75,000 for single filers, \$150,000 for married filing jointly and \$112,500 for head of household filers. The credit begins to phase out above those thresholds. To confirm your eligibility, use the IRS Child Tax Credit Eligibility Assistant. Learn more at [ChildTaxCredit.gov](https://www.irs.gov/childtaxcredit)

Senior Tax Freeze

Township senior citizen homeowners, 65 years of age and older, may be eligible for a tax freeze program initiated by the State of New Jersey. For eligibility requirements and additional information, please call the state's regional information center at (201)791-0500.

GRANTS

Grants Awarded

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance for Firefighters Grant (AFG-S) COVID-19 Supplemental Round II

The Saddle Brook Volunteer Fire Department was just awarded a second FEMA AFG-S award in the amount of \$1,828 for personal protective equipment items related to COVID-19. The fire department had applied for \$22,091.05 for a washer/dryer, 450 gloves, 450 masks, germicidal wipes and sanitizers, as well as protective coveralls.

FY21 Bergen County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The township identified two projects which included Priority #1: Congress Street in the amount of \$227,000 and Priority #2: Barrier free improvements to the new municipal complex in the amount of \$260,000. A resolution was presented and approved at the township council meeting on February 2, 2021. The township received notification from the Bergen County Community Development Block Grant Committee that \$189,000 in funds was allocated for Priority #2.

FY21 N.J. Office of Attorney General (NJOAG) Body Worn Cameras Grant

The Saddle Brook Police Department will be receiving \$81,520, reimbursable via request through 2025. The NJOAG awarded all grant recipients approximately \$2,038 per-camera requested to cover the cost of cameras and related equipment and storage solutions. Our grant writer successfully submitted this grant application, requesting funds for 40 cameras.

Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund

Saddle Brook's application for 2020 Open Space was awarded in the amount of \$30,000 for improvements to Mayhill Street playground. Our grant writer completed and submitted our 2020 Bergen County Open Space Municipal Park Improvements application in the amount of \$60,000. This program is designed to supplement local efforts and therefore requires a dollar-for-dollar match from the municipality (\$30,000 match).

FY21 Municipal Aid Grant Program

Saddle Brook was awarded \$200,000 for Mayhill Street Phase II road improvements. Our grant writer completed and successfully submitted the grant application in the amount of \$441,109.72. This program funds a wide variety of transportation infrastructure projects, and municipalities may submit up to two applications per year.

Pending Grants

FY22 Municipal Aid—NJDOT

The Municipal Aid program is a competitive program intended to provide municipalities with transportation based grants to supplement their transportation programs. Funding is available through state aid to municipalities and counties for local transportation improvements. Our fiscal year 2022 application was filed and received ahead of the June 30th deadline.

Congressional Community Projects Appropriations

The annual federal budget process for the next fiscal year is underway in Washington, DC. To meet the needs of our communities in New Jersey's various congressional districts, congressional offices have accepted community project funding requests for fiscal year 2022. Specific community projects and requests were submitted covering a variety of programs, from housing, to health, to education, to transportation to public safety. Our grant writer assisted us with in submitting applications for costs associated with the new municipal complex generators and township water and sewer upgrades.

FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S)

Our grant writer submitted this grant application on behalf of our fire department in the amount of \$9,350 for a smoke alarm installation and home inspection project for Saddle Brook senior citizens. The objectives of the FP&S Program are to provide critically needed resources to carry out fire prevention education and training, fire code enforcement, fire/arson investigation, firefighter safety and health programming, prevention efforts, and research and development. This application is pending, awards are expected shortly.

FY20 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters (AFG)

Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program is one of three grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) focus on enhancing the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The Saddle Brook Volunteer Fire Department re-applied for the department's FY19 proposal for a washer/dryer unit, gear, and other PPE in the amount of \$105,150.

FY20 N.J. Transit S5310

Our grant writer re-applied to the N.J. Transit ‘S-Rides’ grant program to offset the cost of procuring a new senior bus for the Saddle Brook Senior Center, which provides a multitude of transportation services for seniors including for recreational, medical, nutritional, and other purposes. The intent of this program is to improve mobility for seniors and people with disabilities by providing financial support through programs planned, designed, and carried out to meet the transportation needs of these populations. Applications are in process.

FY2021 N.J. Division of Community Affairs Local Recreation Improvement Grant Program

Our grant writer successfully submitted this grant for \$113,850 for a Splash Park at 55 Mayhill Street. The LRI grant is a new state program allowing for local municipalities and school districts to apply for funds to upgrade recreation sites, such as parks, town pools, etc. This is a competitive grant that supports improvement and repair of public recreation facilities including parks and recreation centers. The application is currently pending with awards expected any day now.

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation

Our grant writer completed and submitted the Saddle Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps 2021 Quarter 3 grant application in the amount of \$15,349 for LUCAS Chest Compression devices. The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation offers quarterly grants to first responders for life-saving equipment up to \$25,000. The application is currently pending. Fourth Quarter applications will begin being accepted beginning July 6th through August 18th.

FY21 COPS Hiring Program (CHP)

Our grant writer successfully completed and submitted an application on behalf of the Saddle Brook Police Department (SBPD) in the amount of \$375,000 to hire three officers over the course of three years after last year’s 2020 application went unfunded. Our grant writer assisted with a reapplication to this year’s solicitation, applying to hire one officer. The COPS Hiring program offers grants to offset the costs of hiring new police officer’s salaries and fringe benefits, up to \$125,000 over a three-year grant period. This application is currently pending.

Grant Work / Funding Opportunities

N.J. Department of Transportation (NJDOT) FY22 Safe Streets to Transit

The goal of this program is to promote increased usage of transit by constructing safe and accessible pedestrian linkages to transit facilities. Examples of the type of eligible work which can be funded under this program include: Intersection safety improvements; Safety enhancements for pedestrian access to transit stops; Traffic control devices that benefit pedestrians; Traffic calming measures; Pedestrian signals and push buttons at key intersections; Pedestrian oriented lighting; and Major sidewalk reconstruction. Projects within a half-mile radius of a transit facility will be given priority.

N.J. Department of Transportation (NJDOT) - Safe Routes to School

The NJDOT announced the availability of this program, which has a deadline of October 14, 2021. This is a federally funded reimbursement program with the main objectives of enabling and encouraging children in grades K-8, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school and make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative. Also to implement projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic. Eligible infrastructure projects must be within two miles of a K-8 School. Collaboration with our public school district is required along with a resolution in support of the project from the Board of Education.

Fire Station Construction Grants Act

This federal legislation will help construct new fire stations for America's firefighters. The Fire Station Construction Grants Act would authorize \$1 billion in fire station construction grants administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for modifying, upgrading, and building fire and EMS department facilities, including local fire and EMS stations and fire training facilities. More information is forthcoming and our township grant writer will be closely monitoring this grant opportunity.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Community Partnership Committee (CPC) / Access for All

The CPC meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. We were meeting remotely via Zoom, but held our June meeting at the Senior Center. We always welcome new members that want to volunteer to help their community. As a reminder, the mission of the CPC is to serve as a forum to discuss township issues and provide residents in need, with resources, referrals, and guidance to obtain the help they need to improve their quality of life.

Spencer Savings Bank Donations

On March 27, 2021, Spencer Savings Bank Branch Managers Jennifer Braga and Fran Swank visited First Reformed Church of Saddle Brook to deliver a very generous donation in recognition of, and support for the church's care and outreach to the community during the pandemic. They also made generous donations to our Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department and Volunteer Ambulance Corps. They came to town hall on April 5th to present checks to Fire Chief Joe Polizzotti. Ambulance Captain Harry Reid and I. We appreciate Spencer Bank's enduring commitment to serve and support our community during both good times and bad times.

Acme Gift Bags – Friday, June 18th

The Acme Supermarket of Saddle Brook donated bags of personal care items, hand sanitizers, and anti-bacterial wipes to senior citizens at the Saddle Brook Senior Center. The donation was facilitated by the Saddle Brook Community Partnership Committee. Special thanks to Committee Coordinator Howard Weinberg, Acme Store Manager Eugene Pate, and Senior Center Director Joe Lecce. Asst. Manager Wade Borns, Bakery Specialist Danielle and I joined Howard and Eugene in distributing the bags at the center on Friday, June 18th. Thank you Acme Supermarket for your kindness and generosity!

Mayor's Youth Group (MYG)

The MYG is a group of Saddle Brook children who help out with projects and events in the community and make a positive impact. The youth group participates in various activities and community events throughout the year. The MYG is open to all students living in Saddle Brook in grades 4-12 as of September 2021. Members are not required to be students in the Saddle Brook School district. We meet monthly on Saturdays at town hall at 10am. If you want more information please check us out on our social media pages – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.

Tri-centennial Park Earth Day Planting and Clean-Up – Saturday April 17th

The Mayor's Youth Group came together at Tri-centennial Park for an Earth Day activity. Flowers were planted around the flag pole and some clean-up was done. A big thank you to all the members who came out to participate. Thanks as well to the Saddle Brook DPW for their assistance in this activity. Special thanks to Christine Genuario and Shannon Accomando, Co-Chairs of the Projects and Activities Committee, for organizing this event. Finally, we appreciate Lisa Swain, Assemblywoman for the 38th State Legislative District, for stopping by and doing some planting.

Memorial Day Parade – Sunday May 30th

Some members marched in the parade with township officials. Even though it was pouring rain for much of the day, we did not let that dampen our spirits and had fun being patriotic and celebrating Memorial Day.

Flood Mitigation Committee

The committee met in person on Thursday, April 22nd at the Senior Center. Members agreed to write a letter to Congressman Bill Pascrell requesting his support mitigating flooding along the Saddle River. Also, when funding infrastructure projects in Congress to consider the need to manage the river and implement flood prevention measures. We are still working toward receiving authorization from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to participate in their Community Rating System.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Photographs and Videos of Events and Activities

Most events are photographed and recorded. The recordings are broadcasted on Our Town public access cable television, Ch. 77 – Cablevision, Ch. 38 – Version Fios and on YouTube. The photos and recordings are also posted on the township website www.saddlebrooknj.us and Facebook page www.facebook.com/SaddleBrookTownship

Ground Breaking Ceremony – May 7th at 5:30pm

Saddle Brook took the next step in realizing its dream of having a new municipal complex become a reality. Council President Karen D'Arminio, Business Administrator Peter LoDico, and I spoke to approximately 40 guests and mentioned how exciting we were to take part in the groundbreaking ceremony and to get the project underway at 55 Mayhill Street. The municipal complex will house a civic center, a new home for Hook and Ladder Volunteer Fire Company and our Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and all municipal offices. Bergen County Executive James Tedesco, along with Bergen County Commissioners Tanelli, Zur, and Amoroso presented a certificate congratulating the township on its accomplishment. Assemblywoman Lisa Swain also presented a proclamation on behalf of the N.J. Assembly commemorating the day.

Memorial Day Parade, Sunday May 30th

The township celebrated Memorial Day with our annual parade in honor of the men and women who served in the armed forces of our country and in memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice. The weather refused to cooperate, but we forged ahead despite the elements. Thank you to the following: Cmdr. Lou Verile and Romaine Sinniger VFW Post 3484 parade committee, Cmdr. Robert Paterson and Jamros-Baker-Schneider American Legion Post # 415, Parade Gold Sponsors, and Grand Marshal Ron Wickam. Special thanks to former Saddle Brook Mayor Louis D'Arminio, Assemblywoman Lisa Swain, and Assemblyman Chris Tully for their participation. Also, Thomas Van Winkle for joining in the parade and taking photographs. Finally, we appreciated the efforts and assistance of the S.B. Volunteer Fire Department and Honor Guard, S.B. Volunteer Ambulance Corps, S.B. Police Department and SB. Department of Public Works.

Mayor's Fishing Derby, Saturday June 19th (9am-12pm)

The Annual Mayor's Fishing Derby was held at Otto Pehle Lake in Saddle River County Park. The weather was beautiful and the kids had a great day of fishing. Thank you Christine Genuario for supervising registration and helping organize the event. Also, the members of the Saddle Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps for standing by in case anyone needed medical attention. Special thanks to Ambulance Corps Captain Harry Reid for his assistance identifying and measuring the fish. We also appreciate Thomas Van Winkle for taking photos and the attendance and efforts of Recreation Director Andy Gallo and our DPW employees assigned to the event. All participants received trophies and Derby winners received special gifts (fishing poles and tackle boxes) donated by Walmart of Saddle Brook. Special thanks to Walmart for their kindness and generosity.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

National Night Out – Tuesday, August 3rd (6-9pm)

The Saddle Brook Police Department will once again host a National Night Out celebration. This year it will be on the grounds at 55 Mayhill Street, the future home of our new municipal complex. National Night Out is an event that has been celebrated in the United States since 1984. The event, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, is held annually on the first Tuesday in August and is meant to increase awareness about police and public safety programs in communities.

Township Picnic – Saturday August 28th (12-4pm)

After a year off due to COVID-19, the township is excited to once again host our Annual Picnic at the Saddle River County Park (SRCP). Rain date, if necessary, will be Sunday, August 29th. The Annual Picnic is open to Saddle Brook residents only and admission is free. Prior to the picnic, I will once again host the Annual Mayor's Walk (around the lake) at 9am in the SRCP.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Road Resurfacing

2020 Road Program Phase I.

The 2020 Road Program consisted of Jamros Terrace, Colonial Avenue, Woodcrest Place, Danna Way, and Taggart Way. All work has been completed including punch list items.

Mayhill Street Phase I

This project was partially funded under FY 2020 New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Municipal Aid Program for resurfacing Mayhill Street from Leswing Avenue to the Route 80 Bridge. The only work item remaining is the replacement of the guide rail on the ramp leading up to the bridge over Route 80. This work must be coordinating with NJDOT which includes modification to the parapet to support the revised guide rail.

2020 Road Program Phase II.

The following roads were resurfaced in June 2021: Finnegan Avenue, McKenzie Street, Weller Terrace and a small portion of West Street. The project was awarded April 1 and a preconstruction meeting was held on April 22nd. Concrete work commenced the first week in May and milling and paving of the roads was done the second week of June. Punch list items still remain.

Albany Street

The township engineer assisted with our grant application to resurface Albany Street under the FY 2020 CDBG funding cycle. The township was awarded \$101,000 for the project and the project was put out to bid in May 2021 with bid opening on May 27th. The project was awarded to Frank Macchione Construction, 141 Central Avenue, Rochelle Park, N.J. in the amount of \$151,272.85. Concrete work has commenced and milling and paving to begin shortly.

2021 Road Program

The 2021 Road Program consists of Wilson Street, South Broadway Avenue, Hobson Avenue, Steinway Road, Burgess Drive and George Street. The township engineer conducted all necessary survey work. Hobson Avenue will be paved as part of the water main replacement project. The township engineer issued bid documents for (Phase I) Steinway, Burgess and George, and the contract was awarded to AJM Contractors, 300 Kuller Road, Clifton, N.J. in the amount of \$263,114.50. Phase 2, Wilson and South Broadway will go out to bid later this summer.

Mayhill Street Phase II.

An application for funding for FY 2021 under the NJDOT Municipal Aid Program has been submitted to resurface Mayhill Street from the Route 80 Bridge to Market Street. The township was awarded \$200,000 for this project. Our township engineer has been authorized to conduct survey work and proceed with preparation of the bid documents.

Municipal Complex – 55 Mayhill Street

The township entered into a contract to purchase 55 Mayhill Street and closed on the property at the end of May, 2020. The contract calls for construction plans to retrofit / renovate the existing structure to a much needed civic center and municipal complex that includes municipal offices, court, and fire department, and ambulance corps. We have completed the planning phase and detailed construction drawings have been made. All the necessary permits including one from the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection have been secured. The construction management team is Barr and Barr, 34th Street, New York, NY. Demolition and interior removal and roughing began the first week of June. We anticipate the project to be completed in one year.

Other Projects

Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure Improvements

The township engineer has submitted a proposal to assist the township in obtaining funding for this project along with improvements to the Midland and Mayhill pump stations. Effort will include preliminary design necessary as part of the funding request.

Hobson Avenue Water Main Replacement

A proposal for engineering services has been submitted by our township engineer for the replacement of the water main on Hobson Avenue. Our engineer will commence with preparation of plans once authorized.

OTHER

Ordinances Passed

Ordinance-1701-21

Amending Chapter 206-9.43.1f of the Township Code entitled “Affordable Housing Residential District”

Ordinance-1702-21

Amending Chapter 206, Article VE, K of the Township Code entitled “Zoning, Affordable Housing Districts”

Ordinance-1703-21

Amending Chapter 48 of the Township Code entitled “Affordable Housing”

Ordinance-1700-21

Capital Ordinance to appropriate the sum of \$60,000 for the undertaking of various improvements to Mayhill Street Park

Ordinance-1704-21

Calendar Year 2021 Ordinance to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limits and to establish a cap bank (NJSA 40A: 4-45.14)

Ordinance-1705-21

Prohibits parking of commercial vehicles in the roadway between 9pm-6am

Saddle Brook Police Department (SBPD) Memorial – Saturday May 15th

The SBPD Annual Memorial Services were held again this year to pay tribute and honor the service and memories of all the deceased members of the department whose names are inscribed on the monument located in front of town hall. Due to COVID-19, last year’s services were canceled.

Girl Scout Recognition – Tuesday May 25th

A recognition ceremony for our town Girl Scouts was held outside the Saddle Brook Library. All the girls received certificates of recognition for their years of volunteer service to their troops and the community. Girls that attained the prestigious Gold Award received special acknowledgement and gave presentations summarizing their community projects. The girls thanked their parents and troop leaders for all their guidance and support through their years of scouting.

Fundraiser for Saddle Brook First Responders - Wednesday June 9th

Dr. William Thimmel of Thimmel Chiropractic held a fundraiser event in support of Saddle Brook first responders at Midland Brew House on Wednesday June 9th. New York Yankee great Mickey Rivers headlined a spectacular evening. Thank you Dr. William Thimmel, Ken Thimmel, and Michael Lamparillo for organizing the fundraiser. Thank you Christopher and Michael Vargas of Midland Brew House for hosting the event, and for all those who sponsored and attended. A total of \$3897 was raised and donated to township officials on Friday, June 11th.

Blue and Gold Dinner – Saturday, June 26th (12-3pm)

I attended the Cub Scout Pack 222 Annual Blue Gold Ceremony at Saint Philip the Apostle Church auditorium. The Blue and Gold ceremony is a birthday celebration of Cub Scouting. The ceremony or banquet is usually held in February, as this is the anniversary month of the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts of America began in 1910 and Cub Scouting began twenty years later. The Blue and Gold gets its name from the Cub Scout colors -- blue and gold.

Township Retirements – June 30, 2021

Congratulations to Police Officer Matthew Benus and Deputy Court Administrator Eileen Pinto upon their retirements from the Township of Saddle Brook. Officer Benus joined Saddle Brook Police Department in 1992 and honorably and faithfully served the community for nearly 29 years. Eileen worked for the township for 30 years. She started her career in the tax office and returned to work in the municipal court. Eileen also gives back to our community as a long-time volunteer with the Saddle Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Best wishes and good health to both of them as they embark on their next journey in life.